United Nations A/72/723–S/2018/81

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
2 February 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 65
Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 31 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 31 January 2018 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ri Yong Ho (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-01609 (E) 080218

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 31 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

(*Translation*)

Pyongyang, 31 January, Juche 107(2018)

I address this letter to you with respect to emerging dangerous military moves antithetical to the positive changes leading to the improvement of inter-Korean relations and easing of tension now being manifested on the Korean Peninsula.

The fact that a dramatic turning point has been made for peace and stability, national reconciliation and cooperation and reunification on the Korean Peninsula, where a touch-and-go war danger was prevailing, is entirely thanks to the noble love for the nation by the respected Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Comrade Kim Jong Un, his will for reunification based on devotion to the country and people and his great and courageous determination to safeguard peace.

Owing to our magnanimous initiative, good results are borne in the inter-Korean dialogue, thus giving joy to all fellow countrymen, and a positive atmosphere in favour of improving inter-Korean relations is created, and the international society warmly welcomes and supports this development and looks forward to seeing continued easing of tension on the Korean Peninsula.

However, the United States authorities are misleading public opinion, as if the inter-Korean dialogue is an outcome of their harshest sanctions and pressure imposed upon our country, and seeking to intentionally aggravate the situation by introducing strategic assets, including nuclear-powered aircraft carrier strike groups, into the vicinity of the Korean Peninsula at a time when north and south of Korea are charting a course of peace together.

In view of its nature and contents, scope of troops and war equipment being introduced, the United States current moves of military reinforcements are designed to make a pre-emptive strike against the DPRK, and this is a primary factor which would block the inter-Korean reconciliation process and drive the situation of the Korean Peninsula into an unpredictable dangerous phase.

On the other hand, the United States is openly stating that it will conduct a large-scale aggressive joint military exercise against the DPRK immediately after the Winter Olympic Games.

It is a fact acknowledged by the whole world that, whenever joint military exercises took place, the peace and security of the Korean Peninsula were gravely threatened and inter-Korean mistrust and confrontation reached the top, thus creating great difficulties and obstacles ahead of hard-won dialogues.

We will make every effort to improve inter-Korean relations in the future too, but never sit idle with regard to the sinister act of throwing a wet blanket over our efforts.

In case the hard-won atmosphere in favour of improving inter-Korean relations and easing tensions is undermined owing to the United States manoeuvres aggravating the situation by introducing nuclear war equipment in and around the Korean Peninsula, the United States would never escape from that responsibility.

As a matter of course, the United Nations should not keep silent as to the United States dangerous game of aggravating the situation in and around the Korean Peninsula and driving the whole world into a possible disaster of nuclear war.

I express my expectation that you will pay serious attention to the United States deployment of nuclear war equipment and its manoeuvres to provoke a nuclear war, which will undermine the improvement of inter-Korean relations and the easing of tensions, and to exerting all your efforts to completely terminate these manoeuvres, in line with your mission as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

And, as an immediate step forward, I would like to request you to take up with the Security Council, in line with rule 6 of its provisional rules of procedure, the issue of welcoming the process of improved inter-Korean relations and discouraging the neighbouring countries from disturbing the process.

(*Signed*) **Ri** Yong Ho
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Democratic People's Republic of Korea